

such as zirconia, titania and alumina therein. The coating further comprises an outer component or module disposed on the inner component formed of a water swellable ceramic material capable of forming a hydrate or hydroxide compound upon contact with an oxygen containing environment, e.g. water based fluids such as blood. Preferably, ceramic material for the outer component or module comprises an aluminum, zirconium or hafnium compound, more preferably, a nitride of such materials. The presently most preferred swellable component is a hydrate or hydroxide compound such as aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydrate, and mixtures thereof. The inner component is preferably a series of bilayers comprising zirconia and titania and zirconia and alumina. The thickness of the coating layers range from about 1 to about 100 nanometers, preferably about 1 to 50 nanometers. The overall coating thickness can range up to several microns.

IN THE CLAIMS

~~Please cancel claim 32 without prejudice.~~

~~Please amend Claims 1 -19, claims 21 – 31 and claim 33 to read as follows:~~

- ~~SWB C1
B2~~
- ~~1. (Amended) An intracorporeal device having a protective coating on a surface thereof, comprising:~~
 - ~~a. an inner coating component having at least one layer formed of ceramic material on the surface of the device; and~~